

Welcome

Hello from the Counseling Center! My role is to advise and support students and families in the college search, help identify “best fit” colleges, and assist students in realizing post-secondary goals. This newsletter will help seniors stay on track for the second half of the school year.

Senior Year: Spring Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

As we move through the winter months, please keep the following in mind:

- An updated copy of your child’s transcript (including first semester grades) has been uploaded to the Portfolio section of Skyward. Please review and save a copy for your records. Direct any transcript questions to your child’s school counselor.
 - GPA updates occur only after a class is completed (semester or full-year course).
 - All college applications should now be submitted. Check each college’s admissions portal to ensure applications are complete and no materials are missing.
 - Colleges will begin hosting accepted student events. Students should attend these programs for schools they are seriously considering.
 - Students will continue receiving admission decisions and financial aid award letters over the next several months. Carefully review financial aid offers before making a final decision.
 - For specific questions, contact the college’s financial aid office.
 - For general help understanding award letters (grants vs. loans vs. out-of-pocket costs), feel free to contact me.
 - Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible (based on 2024 tax information).
 - Remember: college is about fit—academics, campus life, distance from home, and affordability.
 - Male students must register for Selective Service when they turn 18: <http://www.sss.gov>
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College Counseling Series – Spring 2026

All programs are virtual evening events and will be recorded and posted to the Moon Area Counseling Center website.

Pathways to Skilled Careers

 Wednesday, March 18, 2026 |  6:30 PM |  Virtual

This will be an opportunity to hear from professionals in different industries about in-demand jobs in our region, and the pathways students can take to obtain the education and training needed to pursue those jobs.

You’ll hear from panelists from various trade/technical institutions participate. Each panelist will spend time discussing the careers that their institutions are preparing students for, with particular emphasis on those that are the most in-demand. Following the presentations, participants will be able to ask questions and learn more about the schools/programs. Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/48hwpHNWQfCXQyFz35NcYA#/registration>

ASVAB Testing Opportunity

The **ASVAB** assesses strengths and interests and is required for military enlistment. It is also helpful for career exploration.

 **Wednesday, March 4**

 Free for Moon students

 [Register here](#)

****Students who were registered for the cancelled November test have been contacted to take the March test – they do not have to sign up again.****

Financial Aid

FAFSA IS OPEN!

Many colleges require students to submit the FAFSA, even if they may not qualify for need-based aid. Some colleges will require students to also complete the CSS Profile. You **ONLY** need to do the CSS Profile if prompted by the college.

Before completing the FAFSA:

- **FAFSA:** Create an FSA ID for both student and parent: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- **Use personal email**, not Moon email, for FSA ID.
- **Net Price Calculator:** Estimate college costs using online tools on each school's financial aid page.

Tools & Resources

- Try a Net Price Calculator on college websites for cost estimates.
- Great resources:
 - www.mysmartborrowing.com

Net Price Calculator

Every college has a **Net Price Calculator** on its financial aid website. This tool provides an estimated cost of attendance and is a helpful planning resource.

Scholarships & Resources

All scholarships sent to the Counseling Center are listed in **Naviance**:

Colleges → Scholarships & Money → Scholarship Search

Helpful Scholarship Search Sites:

- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarshipamerica.org
- www.finaid.org
- [Pittsburgh Foundation Scholarships](#)
- **Moon Area High School local scholarships – check Naviance & Teams page**

Transcripts for Scholarships:

- Most can use unofficial transcripts from Skyward.
- If official transcript required, contact **Ms. Monyak**: mmonyak@moonarea.net

Local Moon Area Scholarships

Approximately **25 local scholarships** will be available in Naviance soon. These are labeled with an asterisk (*) in the Local & Regional Scholarships section. **Follow directions carefully**—applications that do not follow instructions will not be accepted.

Transcripts for Scholarships:

- Most can use unofficial transcripts from Skyward.
- If official transcript required, contact **Ms. Monyak**: mmonyak@moonarea.net

Highlighted Scholarships:

- **National Catholic College Admission Association (NCCAA):** 16 scholarships of \$1,000. Deadline: April 1.
- **Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation:** Scholarships for students of Hispanic/Latino descent. Deadline: April 30.
- **Lola G. Duff and William H. Duff, II Scholarship:** Allegheny County seniors pursuing a four-year degree; Protestant faith required. Deadline: March 4.
- **PSCA Scholarship:** \$1,000 essay scholarship. Deadline: April 1.
- **Hermine Solt Student Scholarship:** \$500 for seniors pursuing a business-related field. Details available via PAEOP.

Check Your Email & College Portals

- Important updates on application status, scholarships, and SRAR completion are sent here.
 - Missing these emails can delay your application.
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✅ **Completing Applications & Declining Schools**

- If no longer interested in a school: email or call them to let them know.
 - Notify schools if accepted elsewhere. This helps other students and frees up scholarships.
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🏆 **NCAA Student-Athletes**

If considering Division I or II sports:

- Register at eligibilitycenter.org
 - Submit official transcripts via Naviance
 - Test scores must be sent directly from SAT/ACT.
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Please feel free to reach out with any questions as we move through this important time in your student's senior year.